

LEIGH-ON-SEA  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Report of the Health

OF

LEIGH-ON-SEA

For the Year 1905,

BY

W. DOUGLAS WATSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR LEIGH-ON-SEA.

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# LEIGH-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

*Chairman*—Councillor H. G. KING.

*Councillors :*

J. E. MEACHEN.

G W. SMITH.

F. W. SENIOR.

S. TURNNIDGE.

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## OFFICERS :

*Clerk—*

W. CARLYLE CROASDELL.

*Medical Officer—*

W. DOUGLAS WATSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Surveyor—*

J. W. LIVERSEDGE.

*Sanitary Inspector—*

D. TOMLIN.



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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.



# REPORT.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Ninth Annual Report on the health of the town of Leigh-on-Sea.

## **Population.**

The total population to the mid-year 1905 I estimate as 5,083. This estimate is based upon the number of inhabited houses and the average number of inhabitants per house, as shown by the figures of the last census in 1901, and I believe it to be more correct than one based on the birth rate, owing to the large number of people who now come to reside here.

## **Births.**

The number of births registered during the year was 110. The birth rate was therefore 21.6.

## **Deaths.**

The total number of deaths registered for 1905 was 53, which gives a death rate of 10.4.

These figures should be corrected by the addition to the total number of deaths of those occurring outside the district of persons belonging thereto, and deducting the number of deaths in the district of persons not belonging to it.

One Leigh person died in Rochford Infirmary during the year, which is therefore included in the Table No. 1 of Vital Statistics, and gives a rate of 10.5.

There were, however, I have found by examination and enquiry, nine deaths recorded for this district of persons not belonging thereto, which brings the already very low rate down to the remarkably small one of 8.85. This, which is therefore the true death rate for the year 1905, for the town of Leigh-on-Sea, proves very plainly how healthy our town is,

### **Infantile Mortality.**

Five deaths occurred of infants under one year. Two of these did not belong to this district.

The cause of death in these cases was as follows :—

Two from diarrhœa.

One from accidental asphyxia.

One from premature birth, the infant surviving only half an hour.

One from congenital syphilis.

This gives a proportion of 45.45 to every 1,000 births, which is the lowest rate yet recorded in Leigh.

### **Infectious Cases.**

Fifteen cases were notified in 1905, the figures for previous years being :—

1904	...	...	9
1903	...	...	16
1902	...	...	117
1901	...	...	62
1900	...	...	87
1899	...	...	140
1898	...	...	61
1897	...	...	52

### **Diphtheria.**

Three cases were notified, two at the same time in January, and at the same house, the third in March. All recovered.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Four cases were notified.

One case was notified in June and another in August, both imported; the latter case was of a boy, one of twelve children sent from a charity for a holiday from London. The lad was isolated at the house, and no secondary case occurred. The Medical Officer of Health of the district where the patient lived was notified.



Two other cases were notified in September. All the cases were of a mild type.

Two cases of Erysipelas were notified in October.

### Enteric Fever.

Six cases were notified last year, one of which was fatal, those in previous years being as follows :—

1904	there were 6 cases with 1 death.
1903	„ 13 „ 2 deaths.
1902	„ 43 „ 4 „
1901	„ 15 „ 4 „
1900	„ 33 „ 7 „
1899	„ 38 „ 6 „
1898	„ 21 „ 4 „
1897	„ 17 „ 4 „

TABLE OF CASES OF ENTERIC FEVER.

Date of Notification.	Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Result of enquiry into cause.
1. May	Southsea Avenue	...	M. 4	Said to have eaten stale cockles from a ditch.
2. Sept.	Do.	...	M. 14	Fatal case — no cause found.
3. Sept.	Pleasant Terrace	...	M. 16	Nil.
4. Oct.	High Street ...	..	M. 4	Sewer open outside housesome time, several cases occurred in house in previous years.
5. Nov.	High Street ...	...	F. 29	Secondary to No. 4.
. Nov.	Southsea Avenue	...	M. 4	Nil.

### Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

There were only three deaths from these diseases.

Small Pox	...	...	---
Measles	...	...	---
Scarlet Fever	...	...	---
Diphtheria	...	...	---
Whooping Cough	...	...	---
Fevers	...	...	1 (Enteric).
Diarrhœa	...	...	2

The death rate per 1,000 persons living was .58.

TABLE I.

**Vital Statistics**

of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years of  
Leigh-on-Sea.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.
1897.	3525	87	24·6	7	80·4	52	14·7
1898.	3750	102	27·2	15	147·0	56	14·9
1899.	4000	101	25·2	14	138·6	41	10·25
1900.	4100	104	25·38	9	86·5	55	13·4
1901.	3667	107	29·18	6	56·1	42	11·42
1902.	3767	93	24·7	10	107·4	60	15·9
1903.	4064	111	24·85	7	63·06	40	9·84
1904.	4773	120	25·12	18	150	67	14·03
Averages for years 1897-1904.	3955·75	103·12	25·15	10·7	103·63	51·6	11·8
1905.	5083	110	21·6	5	45·45	53	10·4

Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions  
beyond the District ... .. 1

Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District ... 54—10·5

AREA.—2,332 acres, 2 roods, 20 poles.

POPULATION ... ..	3,667	} At Census of 1901.
No. of Inhabited Houses ..	797	
Average Number of Persons per house ...	4·6	



### **Isolation of Infectious Diseases.**

Since the termination in 1900 of the arrangement with the Rochford District Council to take in to their Hospital cases requiring removal from home, no permanent provision of an Isolation Hospital has been made. Your Council still rent the Bungalow primarily acquired for possible small pox cases. The only other provision made to assist isolation is the allowance (made in three cases last year) of small sums toward the expense of providing a nurse.

As many persons come to reside here from London and other places where hospital accommodation, at the ratepayers' expense, in the case of infectious diseases, is looked upon as a matter of course, it may be well to point out that these hospitals are not erected and maintained for the purpose of relieving the friends and relatives of those suffering from infectious disease of the trouble and expense of nursing and tending them, nor are they primarily intended to offer better treatment of the sick than can in some instances be obtained at the patient's house. Their main object is the protection of others by the isolation of the sufferer.

During the past few years some doubt has been expressed that Isolation Hospitals are sufficiently successful in this object to warrant the enormous expense entailed on the ratepayers.

In my report for 1903, I suggested that provision should be made of a small hospital which would be closed when not required. I am still of opinion that this would be the best provision to make for cases where hospital accommodation is advisable, but I do not think the number and character of the cases notified during the past three years in Leigh would justify any large outlay for this purpose.



TABLE III.—**Cases of Infectious Diseases**  
notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. At Ages—Years.						
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1—5.	5—15.	15—25	25-65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria ...	3		1			2	
Erysipelas ...	2					2	
Scarlet Fever ...	4		3	1			
Enteric Fever ...	6		3	1	1	1	
Totals... ..	15		7	2	1	5	

### Isolation Hospital.

Temporary building available, but not used in 1905.

TABLE IV.—**Causes of, and Ages at Death**  
during the Year, 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
			All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	1	..	...	1	..	...	...
Diarrhœea ... ..	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	..	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)			5	...	...	...	...	5	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	...	7	...	...	...	..	3	4
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	2	...	..	...	...	2	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Alcoholism ... ..	...	}	4	...	...	...	...	4	...
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	...		1	1	...	..	...	...	...
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	...	..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases ... ..	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	5
Accidents ... ..	...	...	2	1	...	...	..	1	...
Old Age ... ..	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diseases of Blood Vessels ...	...	...	8	...	...	..	...	7	1
Kidney Diseases ... ..	...	...	4	...	...	1	1	2	...
All other causes ... ..	...	...	2	...	..	...	...	...	2
All Causes ... ..	...	...	53	5	2	2	1	25	18

TABLE V  
**Infantile Mortality**

During the Year 1905.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	Total under 1 month	2-3 months	6-7 months	9-10 months	Total deaths under one Year.
Certified                   ...           ...	1	1	2	1	1	5
Diarrhœa, all forms ...           ...	...	...	1	1	..	...
Premature Birth           ...           ...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...                   ...           ...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Suffocation               ..           ...	...	...	...	..	1	...

Births in the year 110.      Deaths from all causes at all ages 53.

**Measles.**

An epidemic occurred in the autumn, when from one school 63 children out of 130 were away—the average attendance a week or so before being 110.

I recommended the closure of the National Schools and the Infants' School for three weeks from October 22nd.

The epidemic was of a mild type and soon subsided.

**Phthisis.**

Five deaths occurred from pulmonary consumption. Three at least of these cases were imported. Some form of notification of phthisis is in my opinion advisable.

**Diarrhoea.**

Two deaths occurred from this disease of infants under one year. In neither case were the babies breast fed.

### **Leigh District Nursing Association.**

This Association provides a well trained "Queens" Nurse for work amongst the sick in this district. Your Council contributes to the Association's funds ten pounds per annum. I am glad to acknowledge here the assistance given by the nurse in the distribution of the notices concerning infant feeding, &c., which have been in use for some time.

### **House Refuse Removal.**

This work is let out to a Contractor, and during the greater part of the year the refuse was carted out of the district to brickfields, and for the remainder, to brickfields in the district.

On the whole, the work has been satisfactorily carried out, though supervision is necessary.



I am indebted to Mr. Liversedge, the Surveyor to your Council, for information concerning the water supply and the sewerage.

### **Water Supply.**

The district is supplied from the Council's works with water pumped from a deep well. A few isolated houses are still supplied from shallow wells.

Although unable to maintain a twenty-four hours constant supply, the Council have been able to increase the supply, giving two-thirds of the district a constant supply, and one-third a twelve hours supply.

### **Sewage Works and Sewerage System.**

The usual standard of purity of the effluent has been maintained at the works. Regular analyses have been made of the effluent, and inspection of the works by Dr. Thresh, and Mr. Watson-Smith, and the Officers of the Thames Conservancy, favourable reports having been received.

House drain connections continue to be made to the sewerage system and the amount of sewage at the works is naturally an increased quantity. The question of admitting



large quantities of surface water into the system is at present engaging the attention of the Council, as in addition to clogging the beds by mineral matter, the large volume of storm water renders the beds less active.

### **Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,**

The following factories have been inspected during the year 1905 :—

- I Mineral Water Manufactory.
- I Brickworks.
- I Sawmill.

No nuisances were found, no matter referred to H.M.'s Inspector.

The following workshops and workplaces were also inspected :—

Dressmakers	...	2
Sailmakers	...	2
Laundry	...	—
Boat Builders	...	2
Bakehouses	...	8

There are no underground bakehouses, no matters have been reported to and no notifications received from H.M. Inspector. No case of infectious disease has occurred on these premises, and no nuisances detected.

During the year 1905 your Council issued regulations for the supply of milk under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Copies of notices were received from the Local Government Board respecting epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis and anthrax.

Twelve houses in Belton Row which were in an insanitary and dilapidated condition, were closed by the action of your Council, and have since been demolished, as also three cottages in the "Gardens," Leigh Hill.

Application was made before the Justices for a closing order in the case of a wooden cottage near the Elms, which in the opinion of your Surveyor and Medical Officer was in such a state of disrepair as to render it unfit for habitation. No order was, however, made.

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

*Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in  
the Urban Sanitary District of Leigh-on-Sea during  
the year 1905.*

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Complaints received ... ..	17
Nuisances detected without complaint ... ..	77
Nuisances abated ... ..	94
Notices served ... ..	9
Slaughter Houses inspected ... ..	3
Bakehouses inspected ... ..	8
Dairies and Milkshops inspected ... ..	8
Cowsheds inspected ... ..	6
Houses disinfected ... ..	12
Schools disinfected ... ..	3
Houses closed ... ..	15
Houses connected with sewers ... ..	4
Earth pails or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered ... ..	3
Privies and w.c.s repaired, w c.s supplied with water	18
Houses cleansed ... ..	4
Cesspools abolished ... ..	8

